In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 12-618V Filed: August 10, 2017 Not for Publication

MILLMAN, Special Master

Lisa A. Watts, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On September 19, 2012, petitioner filed a petition under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10–34 (2012), alleging that tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis ("Tdap") vaccine he received on October 1, 2009 caused him neurological injury. Pet. at ¶¶ 1 and 2. On December 10, 2012, respondent filed a Rule 4(c) Report, conceding that petitioner suffered a Table brachial neuritis caused by his receipt of Tdap vaccine and recommending compensation. At the request of respondent, the undersigned issued a Ruling on Entitlement on August 10, 2017.

¹ Because this unpublished ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this unpublished ruling on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). Vaccine Rule 18(b) states that all decisions of the special masters will be made available to the public unless they contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged and confidential, or medical or similar information whose disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. When such a decision is filed, petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact such information prior to the document's disclosure. If the special master, upon review, agrees that the identified material fits within the banned categories listed above, the special master shall redact such material from public access.

On August 10, 2017, respondent filed a status report regarding damages, in which respondent proffers the amount J.R. should be awarded for life care expenses, pain and suffering, past unreimbursable expenses, and an amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in the status report. Respondent also incorporates the amount the undersigned ruled should be awarded in lost earnings in her Second Ruling on Wage Loss issued on July 28, 2017.

The undersigned finds the terms of respondent's proffer to be reasonable. Pursuant to the proffer, the court awards:

- a. a lump sum of \$71,467.99 in the form of a check payable to petitioner representing compensation for life care expenses expected to be incurred during the first year after judgment; and
- b. a lump sum of \$220,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner representing compensation for pain and suffering; and
- c. a lump sum of \$145,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner representing compensation for past unreimbursable expenses; and
- d. an amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in section II.B of the attached status report.

The undersigned also awards \$2,587,895.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner representing compensation for petitioner's lost earnings.

Therefore, in sum, the undersigned awards a lump sum of \$3,024,362.99 and an amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in section II.B of the attached status report.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment herewith.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 10, 2017

/s/ Laura D. Millman Laura D. Millman Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party, either separately or jointly, filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

)	
J.T.,)	<u>ECF</u>
)	
Petitioner,)	No. 12-618V
)	Special Master
v.)	Laura D. Millman
)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND)	
HUMAN SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

RESPONDENT'S STATUS REPORT REGARDING DAMAGES

Respondent hereby submits the following status report concerning damages. Petitioner's counsel has reviewed this status report and does not object to the representations made herein.

I. Items of Compensation

A. <u>Life Care Items</u>

Respondent engaged life care planner Linda Curtis, RN, MS, CCM, CNLP and petitioner engaged Liz Holakiewicz, RN, BSN, CCN, CNLCP to provide an estimation of J.T.'s future vaccine-injury-related needs. A life care plan was previously filed in this case, and the agreed-upon life care items are illustrated by the chart entitled "Appendix A: Proffered Items of Compensation for J.T.," attached to this Status Report as Tab A.¹ Respondent proffers that J.T. should be awarded all items of compensation illustrated by the chart attached at Tab A.

¹ The chart at Tab A illustrates the annual benefits provided by the life care plan. The annual benefit years run from the date of judgment up to the first anniversary of the date of judgment, and every year thereafter up to the anniversary of the date of judgment.

B. <u>Lost Earnings</u>

On July 28, 2017, Special Master Millman issued her Second Ruling on Wage Loss awarding petitioner a total of \$2,587,895.00 for his past and future lost earnings as a result of his vaccine-related injury pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 15(a)(3)(A).

C. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that J.T. should be awarded \$220,000.00 in actual and projected pain and suffering. This amount reflects that any award for projected pain and suffering has been reduced to net present value. See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4).

D. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents J.T.'s expenditure of past unreimbursable expenses related to his vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$145,000.00.

II. Form of the Award

The parties request that the compensation provided to petitioner be made through a combination of lump sum payments and future annuity payments as described below, and request that the Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:²

A. A lump sum payment of \$3,024,362.99, representing compensation for life care expenses expected to be incurred during the first year after judgment (\$71,467.99), lost earnings awarded by the Special Master (\$2,587,895.00), pain and suffering (\$220,000.00), and past unreimbursable expenses (\$145,000.00), in the form of a check payable to petitioner, J.T.

² Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses and future pain and suffering.

B. An amount sufficient to purchase an annuity contract,³ subject to the conditions described below, that will provide payments for the life care items contained in the life care plan, as illustrated by the chart at Tab A, attached hereto, paid to the life insurance company⁴ from which the annuity will be purchased.⁵ Compensation for Year Two (beginning on the first anniversary of the date of judgment) and all subsequent years shall be provided through respondent's purchase of an annuity, which annuity shall make payments to petitioner, J.T., only so long as J.T. is alive at the time a particular payment is due. At the Secretary's sole discretion, the periodic payments may be provided to petitioner in monthly, quarterly, annual or other installments. The "annual amounts" set forth in the chart at Tab A describe only the total yearly sums to be paid to J.T. and do not require that the payment be made in one annual installment.

1. Growth Rate

Respondent proffers that a four percent (4%) growth rate should be applied to all non-medical life care items, and a five percent (5%) growth rate should be applied to all medical life

³ In respondent's discretion, respondent may purchase one or more annuity contracts from one or more life insurance companies.

⁴ The Life Insurance Company must have a minimum of \$250,000,000 capital and surplus, exclusive of any mandatory security valuation reserve. The Life Insurance Company must have one of the following ratings from two of the following rating organizations:

a. A.M. Best Company: A++, A+, A+g, A+p, A+r, or A+s;

b. Moody's Investor Service Claims Paying Rating: Aa3, Aa2, Aa1, or Aaa;

c. Standard and Poor's Corporation Insurer Claims-Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA;

d. Fitch Credit Rating Company, Insurance Company Claims Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA.

⁵ Petitioner authorizes the disclosure of certain documents filed by the petitioner in this case consistent with the Privacy Act and the routine uses described in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program System of Records, No. 09-15-0056.

care items. Thus, the benefits illustrated in the chart at Tab A that are to be paid through annuity payments should grow as follows: four percent (4%) compounded annually from the date of judgment for non-medical items, and five percent (5%) compounded annually from the date of judgment for medical items.

2. <u>Life-contingent annuity</u>

Petitioner will continue to receive the annuity payments from the Life Insurance Company only so long as he, J.T., is alive at the time that a particular payment is due. Written notice shall be provided to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Life Insurance Company within twenty (20) days of J.T.'s death.

3. Guardianship

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

III. Summary of Payments Following Judgment

A. Lump sum paid to petitioner, J.T.:

\$3,024,362.99

B. An amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described above in section II. B.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAD A. READLER
Acting Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO Acting Director Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES
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Dated: August 10, 2017

Appendix A: Proffered Items of Compensation for J.T.											Page 1 of 8		
ITEMS OF COMPENSATION	G.R.	*	М	Lump Sum Compensation Year 1 2017	Compensation Year 2 2018	Compensation Years 3-4 2019-2020	Compensation Year 5 2021	Compensation Year 6 2022	Compensation Year 7 2023	Compensation Year 8 2024	Compensation Years 9-10 2025-2026		
Medicare Part B	5%		M	3,214.80	3,214.80	3,214.80							
Medigap	5%		M	3,336.00	3,336.00	3,336.00	1,629.60	1,629.60	1,629.60	1,629.60	1,629.60		
AARP Medicare Rx	5%		M	2,669.33	2,669.33	2,669.33	2,669.33	2,669.33	2,669.33	2,669.33	2,669.33		
PCP	5%	*											
Sleep Specialist	5%	*											
ENT	5%	*											
PMR	5%	*											
PRP	5%			1,500.00									
Steroid Inj	5%	*											
Orthopedic Consult	5%	*											
Lidocaine Infusions	5%	*											
Pain Mngt	5%	*											
X-rays	5%	*											
Sleep Study	5%	*											
EMG	5%	*											
MRI of Cervical Spine	5%	*											
MRI of Shoulders	5%	*											
Spirometry	5%	*											
Lab Testing	5%	*											
Trazedone	5%	*											
Mexiletine	5%	*											
Gabapentin	5%	*											
Hydrocodone	5%	*											
Naltrexone	5%			303.20	303.20	303.20	303.20	303.20	303.20	303.20	303.20		
Cymbalta	5%	*											
Alpha Lipoic Acid	4%			408.45	408.45	408.45	408.45	408.45	408.45	408.45	408.45		
Acetyl L Carnitine	4%			228.51	228.51	228.51	228.51	228.51	228.51	228.51	228.51		
Tylenol	4%			30.26	30.26	30.26	30.26	30.26	30.26	30.26	30.26		
PT Eval	4%	*		150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00		
PT	4%	*		900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00		
PT Post PRP Inj	4%			1,200.00									

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				Lump Sum							
				Compensation							
ITEMS OF COMPENSATION	G.R.	*	M	Year 1	Year 2	Years 3-4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Years 9-10
				2017	2018	2019-2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-2026
OT Eval	4%	*									
OT	4%	*									
ST	4%	*									
Acupuncture	4%			710.00	570.00						
Massage	4%			960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00
Functional Restoration Program	4%			30,000.00							
Counselor	4%	*		1,680.00	1,680.00	1,680.00					
Adj Bed	4%			1,000.00							
Thumb Support	4%			64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32
Compression Gloves	4%			517.40	517.40	517.40	517.40	517.40	517.40	517.40	517.40
Finger Splints	4%			22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
Athletic Tape	4%			52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17
Exercise Bands	4%			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bed Rail	4%			119.95							
Thera Cane	4%			39.95							
Arm Support	4%			42.95				42.95			
BiPap Machine	4%	*									
BiPap Mask	4%	*									
BiPap Tubing	4%	*									
BiPap Filters	4%	*									
Shower Seat	4%			87.24						87.24	
Hand Held Shower	4%			34.54						34.54	
Faucets	4%			233.95							
Grab Bars	0%			110.97							
Raised Toilet Seat	4%						49.95	9.99	9.99	9.99	9.99
Toto Bidet Seat	4%			418.90							
Soap & Shampoo Dispenser	4%			99.99							
Soft Touch Scissors	4%			23.95							
Bread Knife	4%			29.95							
Fork Knife	4%			22.95							
All Purpose Opener	4%			9.95							

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				Lump Sum						I	
				Compensation							
ITEMS OF COMPENSATION	G.R.	*	M	Year 1	Year 2	Years 3-4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Years 9-10
				2017	2018	2019-2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-2026
Steak Knife	4%			32.95							
Jar Opener	4%			10.95							
Foam Tubing	4%			13.95	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79
Dress Horn	4%			13.95	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79
Reacher	4%			32.95	10.98	10.98	10.98	10.98	10.98	10.98	10.98
Zipper Pull	4%			5.95	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19
Bath Kit	4%			15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95
Body Brush	4%			22.95	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59
Dr. Grip Pencil	0%			4.99							
Key Turner	4%			7.95	3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98
Warming Gel Mittens	4%			7.95	3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98
Handy Bar	0%			35.95							
Adaptive Computer Equip	0%			59.95							
Dragon Dictate	0%			220.96							
Shoulder Bag	4%			79.00	26.33	26.33	26.33	26.33	26.33	26.33	26.33
Allotment for Supplies	4%			300.00	82.50	82.50	82.50	82.50	82.50	82.50	82.50
Fitness Mat	4%			250.00							
Sport Cord	4%			209.95							
Therabath	4%			189.99							
Paraffin Beads	4%			39.48	39.48	39.48	39.48	39.48	39.48	39.48	39.48
Health Club	4%		M	759.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Infusions	4%		M	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00
Home Health Aide	4%		M	8,112.00	8,112.00	8,112.00	8,112.00	8,112.00	8,112.00	18,928.00	18,928.00
Ancillary Services: Handyman											
Services	4%		M	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00
Driving Eval	4%			500.00	500.00						
Blind Spot Mirror & Install	0%			67.50							
Memory Foam Steering Wheel											
Cover	4%			12.99	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.33
Mileage: Feinberg Functional Rest Prgm	4%			197.22							

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				Lump Sum							
				Compensation							
ITEMS OF COMPENSATION	G.R.	*	M	Year 1	Year 2	Years 3-4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Years 9-10
				2017	2018	2019-2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-2026
Mileage: Stanford for Lidocaine											
Infusions	4%			740.44	740.44	740.44	740.44	740.44	740.44	740.44	740.44
Mileage: Pain Mngt & Sleep Dr.	4%			350.51	350.51	350.51	350.51	350.51	350.51	350.51	350.51
Mileage: Dr. Sebastian	4%			15.71	15.71	15.71	15.71	15.71	15.71	15.71	15.71
Mileage: UC Davis	4%			29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00
Mileage: Dr. Bodor	4%			29.07	29.07	29.07	29.07	29.07	29.07	29.07	29.07
Mileage: Ortho	4%			24.28	24.28	24.28	24.28	24.28	24.28	24.28	24.28
Mileage: Psych	4%			7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
Mileage: Therapy	4%			96.08	96.08	96.08	96.08	96.08	96.08	96.08	96.08
Mileage: Massage	4%			4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90
Mileage: Acupuncture	4%			3.09	2.65						
Hotel at Stanford	4%			4,155.00							
Home Mods	0%			1,536.00							
Pain and Suffering				220,000.00							
Past Unreimbursable Expenses				145,000.00							
Annual Totals				436,467.99	28,867.72	27,795.07	21,243.82	21,246.81	21,203.86	32,141.64	32,019.86

Note: Compensation Year 1 consists of the 12 month period following the date of judgment.

Compensation Year 2 consists of the 12 month period commencing on the first anniversary of the date of judgment. As soon as practicable after entry of judgment, respondent shall make the following payment to petitioner for Yr 1 life care expenses (\$71,467.99), pain and suffering (\$220,000.00), and past unreimbursable expenses (\$145,000.00): \$436,467.99. Annual amounts payable through an annuity for future Compensation Years follow the anniversary of the date of judgment. Annual amounts shall increase at the rates indicated above in column G.R., compounded annually from the date of judgment. Items denoted with an asterisk (*) covered by health insurance and/or Medicare.

Items denoted with an "M" payable in twelve monthly installments totaling the annual amount indicated.

	1			Ι	Ι		
				Compensation	Compensation	Compensation	Compensation
ITEMS OF COMPENSATION	G.R.	*	M	Year 11	Years 12-14	Year 15	Years 16-Life
				2027	2028-2030	2031	2032-Life
Medicare Part B	5%		M				
Medigap	5%		M	1,629.60	1,629.60	1,629.60	1,629.60
AARP Medicare Rx	5%		M	2,669.33	2,669.33	2,669.33	2,669.33
PCP	5%	*					
Sleep Specialist	5%	*					
ENT	5%	*					
PMR	5%	*					
PRP	5%						
Steroid Inj	5%	*					
Orthopedic Consult	5%	*					
Lidocaine Infusions	5%	*					
Pain Mngt	5%	*					
X-rays	5%	*					
Sleep Study	5%	*					
EMG	5%	*					
MRI of Cervical Spine	5%	*					
MRI of Shoulders	5%	*					
Spirometry	5%	*					
Lab Testing	5%	*					
Trazedone	5%	*					
Mexiletine	5%	*					
Gabapentin	5%	*					
Hydrocodone	5%	*					
Naltrexone	5%			303.20	303.20	303.20	303.20
Cymbalta	5%	*					
Alpha Lipoic Acid	4%			408.45	408.45	408.45	408.45
Acetyl L Carnitine	4%			228.51	228.51	228.51	228.51
Tylenol	4%			30.26	30.26	30.26	30.26
PT Eval	4%	*		150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
PT	4%	*		900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00
PT Post PRP Inj	4%						

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ITEMS OF COMPENSATION	G.R.	*	M	Compensation Year 11	Compensation Years 12-14	Compensation Year 15	Compensation Years 16-Life
				2027	2028-2030	2031	2032-Life
OT Eval	4%	*					
OT	4%	*					
ST	4%	*					
Acupuncture	4%						
Massage	4%			960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00
Functional Restoration Program	4%						
Counselor	4%	*					
Adj Bed	4%						
Thumb Support	4%			64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32
Compression Gloves	4%			517.40	517.40	517.40	517.40
Finger Splints	4%			22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
Athletic Tape	4%			52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17
Exercise Bands	4%			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bed Rail	4%			119.95	12.00	12.00	12.00
Thera Cane	4%			39.95	4.00	4.00	4.00
Arm Support	4%			42.95	8.59	8.59	8.59
BiPap Machine	4%	*					
BiPap Mask	4%	*					
BiPap Tubing	4%	*					
BiPap Filters	4%	*					
Shower Seat	4%					87.24	12.46
Hand Held Shower	4%					34.54	4.93
Faucets	4%						
Grab Bars	0%						
Raised Toilet Seat	4%			9.99	9.99	9.99	9.99
Toto Bidet Seat	4%						
Soap & Shampoo Dispenser	4%						
Soft Touch Scissors	4%						
Bread Knife	4%						
Fork Knife	4%						
All Purpose Opener	4%						

				Compensation	Compensation	Compensation	Compensation
ITEMS OF COMPENSATION	G.R.	*	M	Year 11	Years 12-14	Year 15	Years 16-Life
				2027	2028-2030	2031	2032-Life
Steak Knife	4%						
Jar Opener	4%						
Foam Tubing	4%			2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79
Dress Horn	4%			2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79
Reacher	4%			10.98	10.98	10.98	10.98
Zipper Pull	4%			1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19
Bath Kit	4%			15.95	15.95	15.95	15.95
Body Brush	4%			4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59
Dr. Grip Pencil	0%						
Key Turner	4%			3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98
Warming Gel Mittens	4%			3.98	3.98	3.98	3.98
Handy Bar	0%						
Adaptive Computer Equip	0%						
Dragon Dictate	0%						
Shoulder Bag	4%			26.33	26.33	26.33	26.33
Allotment for Supplies	4%			82.50	82.50	82.50	82.50
Fitness Mat	4%						
Sport Cord	4%						
Therabath	4%						
Paraffin Beads	4%			39.48	39.48	39.48	39.48
Health Club	4%		M	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Infusions	4%		M	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00
Home Health Aide	4%		M	18,928.00	18,928.00	18,928.00	18,928.00
Ancillary Services: Handyman							
Services	4%		M	960.00	960.00	960.00	960.00
Driving Eval	4%						
Blind Spot Mirror & Install	0%						
Memory Foam Steering Wheel Cover	4%						
Mileage: Feinberg Functional Rest Prgm	4%						

ITEMS OF COMPENSATION	G.R.	*	M	Compensation Year 11	Compensation Years 12-14	Compensation Year 15	Compensation Years 16-Life
				2027	2028-2030	2031	2032-Life
Mileage: Stanford for Lidocaine							
Infusions	4%			740.44	740.44	740.44	740.44
Mileage: Pain Mngt & Sleep Dr.	4%			350.51	350.51	350.51	350.51
Mileage: Dr. Sebastian	4%			15.71	15.71	15.71	15.71
Mileage: UC Davis	4%			29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00
Mileage: Dr. Bodor	4%			29.07	29.07	29.07	29.07
Mileage: Ortho	4%			24.28	24.28	24.28	24.28
Mileage: Psych	4%			7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
Mileage: Therapy	4%			96.08	96.08	96.08	96.08
Mileage: Massage	4%			4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90
Mileage: Acupuncture	4%						
Hotel at Stanford	4%						
Home Mods	0%						
Pain and Suffering							
Past Unreimbursable Expenses							
Annual Totals				32,218.38	32,040.12	32,161.90	32,057.51

Note: Compensation Year 1 consists of the 12 month period following the date of judgment.

Compensation Year 2 consists of the 12 month period commencing on the first anniversary of the date of judgment. As soon as practicable after entry of judgment, respondent shall make the following payment to petitioner for Yr 1 life care expenses (\$71,467.99), pain and suffering (\$220,000.00), and past unreimbursable expenses (\$145,000.00): \$436,467.99. Annual amounts payable through an annuity for future Compensation Years follow the anniversary of the date of judgment. Annual amounts shall increase at the rates indicated above in column G.R., compounded annually from the date of judgment. Items denoted with an asterisk (*) covered by health insurance and/or Medicare.

Items denoted with an "M" payable in twelve monthly installments totaling the annual amount indicated.